


Arbor Heights' School Communicator

February 16, 2012

Communication for Our Community from "Your Principal"

<http://arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner>

Dear Families,

How quickly time flies when you are having fun, right? If that is true, then we must have had a *super* time this past fall and early winter because I'm not sure where the time went. As we complete the last days before mid-winter break (seriously? I remember anticipating the beginning of the new school year as if it were last week!), this is a great time to help your child reflect on the goals they set back in November during or after the conference. As you pry them out of bed next week, take a moment to ask your child what he/she has learned since September and how much progress has been made. I would guess that each of our students can tell you about something learned, and something he/she has improved upon in these last months. Then take another moment to celebrate! Help your child to revel in the excitement over an accomplishment. After that, take a well-deserved break to rest, rejuvenate, spend time with family and friends, and look forward to the  *Spring*.

Sincerely, Christy

During the mid-winter break.... Snuggle-up with a GREAT book!

One way to begin selecting a GREAT children's book is to look for award-winning books and authors. Two of the best-known awards are the Caldecott Medal and the Newbery Medal, both presented annually by the American Library Association. The Caldecott Medal is given to the artist of the most distinguished picture book published in the United States. The Newbery Medal is awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. Newbery award-winning books often are most appropriate for older children. Caldecott and Newbery award-winning books are easy to locate, as lists are readily available at libraries and bookstores, and the books often are housed in specially marked sections or shelves.

Some awards are targeted for children's books related to particular content or themes. For example, the Coretta Scott King Award is given to an African American author and an African American illustrator for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions to children's literature.

Award winning books have been carefully selected by committees made up of individuals with expertise in children's literature; however, the members of those communities are not experts on your child! Therefore, I recommend that you seek out award-winning literature, I encourage you keep the interests, attitudes, and experiences of your child in mind. You should select books that will capture and hold your child's attention. What topics will bring your child enjoyment? What books are likely to be asked for again and again by your child? What is important to your child's life? ***Enjoy the break and READ!***



FEBRUARY

Feb 16

- ~ PTA General Meeting 6:30pm
- ~ Charter School Forum 6:45pm

Feb 20-24

~Mid-Winter Break~

Feb 29

- ~Global Reading Challenge Cafeteria, 3rd-5th Grade 1:30-2:15pm

MARCH

Mar 5

- ~Monday Morning Monthly Meeting 9:30am

Mar 6

- ~PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

Mar 7

- ~ Early Dismissal 1:00pm

Mar 10

- ~PTA Family Portrait Day

March 13

- ~Global Reading Challenge Semi-Finals (Downtown Library 10:30am)

Mar 15

- PTA Bingo Night & Bake Sale 5:30pm-8:30pm

Mar 16

~NO SCHOOL~

- Professional Development Day

Mar 21-23

- ~Secret Garden Book Fair

Mar 22

- ~Young Author's Day & Parent Night 6:30pm-7:30pm

APRIL

Apr 2

- ~Monday Morning Monthly Meeting 9:30am

Apr 3

- ~PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

Apr 10

- ~Class and Individual Picture Day

Apr 13

- ~Hawk-A-Thon K-5

~From the PTA~

~Congratulations to Ms. Salter's and Ms. Ingerslev's classes for being the first to return 100% of their **Communications Preference** forms. Forms can be found in the office or at arborheights.wikispaces.com/Forms+Flyers

~Each year **BECU** offers a **\$2500 grant** for schools. Last year a grant proposal was awarded to Arbor Heights for the purchase of a new high tech AV cart. This year a grant was submitted to for an Internet-based learning program, yet we did not get it. You can see this year's proposal and others at arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Grants

~Want to keep in the loop on what's happening at PTA Meetings? Board and General **Meeting Notes** are posted at arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Meeting+Notes

~Get ready for some family B-I-N-G-O on March 15th at the annual PTA sponsored **Bingo Night!** Volunteers needed to make this night fun and successful. Full details at <http://arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Bingo+Night>

~We're organizing a **Family Portrait Day** Fundraiser March 10th & 11th. For only \$35 receive a complimentary 8x10 and low resolution digital file. \$25 of each session stays with Arbor Heights. If all 297 AH families were to participate, that would be \$7,425 for the school. Imagine the potential! More details at arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Family+Portrait+Day

~Do you have a **Parent Resource** to share? We have started a list of parenting resources compiled by Arbor Heights parents to share helpful parenting information throughout our school community. All resources can be found at arborheights.wikispaces.com/Parent+Resources

Charter Schools Forum Tonight @AH 6:45pm! (after brief PTA General Meeting from 6:30pm-6:45pm)

You're invited to come and learn more about charter schools and upcoming decisions in the state capitol that impact our children/school, including a bill that would allow charter schools. Information will be presented by two knowledgeable education advocates from the community: **Beth Sigall** (pro) and **Kristin King** (con), followed by a Q&A session. **Melissa Westbrook** will be the fact-checker.

arborheights.wikispaces.com/Charter+Schools+Forum